

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

RONALD C. PACKARD POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4794) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1895 Avenida Del Oro in Oceanside, California, as the "Ronald C. Packard Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4794

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RONALD C. PACKARD POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1895 Avenida Del Oro in Oceanside, California, shall be known and designated as the "Ronald C. Packard Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Ronald C. Packard Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 4794.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4794, introduced by our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), designates the post office located in Oceanside, California, as the Ronald C. Packard Post Office Building. Members of the entire House delegation from the State of California are cosponsors of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Packard was first elected to Congress on November 2, 1982, after a successful write-in campaign, becoming only the fourth write-in candidate in U.S. history to win a House seat. He served the people of San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties for 18 years in the House of Representatives before his retirement at the close of the 106th Congress.

During his time in Congress, Mr. Packard served on the prestigious Committee on Appropriations and chaired the powerful Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Subcommittee on Military Construction,

and Subcommittee on Legislative of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Packard began his public service in the United States Navy, which he entered upon graduation from dental school in 1957. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, and served as a dentist in the U.S. Navy Corps. Following his military service, he relocated his family and practice to the Carlsbad area and founded the Packard Dental Clinic.

He quickly became active in local civic and business affairs, and received his first public post in 1962 as a trustee of the Carlsbad Unified School District, which included 3 years as chairman.

He served as a director of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce for 4 years, and served 2 years on the Carlsbad City Council, and 4 years as mayor of Carlsbad. As mayor, he focused on critical regional issues. He served 3 years on the Transportation Policy Committee of the League of California Cities, and 4 years as a director of the North County Transit District.

Representative Packard retired from Congress in 2000 so he could spend more time with his family. Ron and Jean Packard married in 1952 and have 7 children, 34 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 4794.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of H.R. 4794, legislation naming a post office after Ronald C. Packard.

H.R. 4794, which was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) on May 22, 2002, has met the committee policy and enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire California delegation.

Ron Packard was elected to Congress on November 2, 1982, by a write-in vote, only the fourth successful write-in candidate in the history of the United States Congress. Representative Packard represented the 48th District in California for 18 years, until his retirement from Congress on January 3, 2001.

A member of the United States Navy Dental Corps, Ronald Packard founded the Packard Dental Clinic before becoming active in community and business affairs. He began public service as a trustee and chairman of the Carlsbad Unified School District, going on to serve as a city councilman and later as mayor of Carlsbad.

While in Congress, Representative Packard served on the Committee on Appropriations, chairing the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, the Subcommittee on Military Construction, and the Subcommittee on Legislative. He also worked as a senior member of the Subcommittee on Transportation and the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs.

Previously, he served on the Committee on Public Works, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Science, the Subcommittee on Space and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, authoring this bill was a unique pleasure for me, for I have known Ron Packard for all but 2 years of the time that he was a Member of Congress. But what I did not know until I arrived here was what kind of a special Representative Ron Packard was while he was here in Congress.

Time after time Members on both sides of the aisle would come up to me and talk about something special they had with Ron, perhaps a difficult situation long into the night on a piece of legislation either here on the floor or in committee, or some piece of appropriations that both sides were wrangling with how to make it work. And Ron would quietly smile, give a kind word, listen, and try to make things happen. That attitude, that way of doing business, was what everyone remembered about Ron.

What we also remember about Ron Packard is that he was able to have that unique talent so seldom found in this body, but so admired when it is found. Ron was able to be fiercely partisan in his beliefs and totally open and bipartisan in the way he approached problems, in the way he dealt with Members on both sides of the aisle.

Ron was known as a man who was already not only an adult, but a father and on his way to being a grandfather before he discovered the game of golf. He did not use golf as a tool against anyone, he used it as an opportunity to come to the other side of the aisle to say, let us go talk about something and maybe catch a round of golf.

Ron did that in everything that he did here in the House. He will be remembered for his effectiveness, but most important, back in our district, he today is contributing as only a former Member of Congress can.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4794, a bill designating the United States Post Office building in Oceanside, California, as the "Ronald C. Packard Post Office Building." I would like to thank Chairman DAN BURTON and the Government Reform Committee for discharging this bill, and House Leadership for placing it on the suspension calendar in such an expeditious manner.

Many of you remember Ron Packard as the distinguished Congressman who represented the 48th Congressional District for 18 years, but you may not know his storied past. Congressman Ron Packard has served the people of California and his country for nearly half century, accentuating integrity and above all, respect for his fellow man.

After relocating his family to Northern San Diego County, Ron Packard began his public service career as a trustee of the Carlsbad

Unified School District, serving from 1962 to 1974. Ron Packard went on to serve two years on the Carlsbad City Council, and was elected the city's mayor in 1978. During his four years as mayor, Packard was very involved with the community and regional affairs. He served three years on the transportation policy committee of the League of California Cities, and spent four years as a Director of North County Transit District. He also served two years as the President of the Council of Mayors for San Diego County.

Ron Packard was first elected to Congress on November 2, 1982, through a grassroots write-in campaign. He was only the fourth successful write-in candidate in the history of the United States Congress. During his time in Congress, he served on the House Appropriations Committee and chaired the Energy and Water Development, Military Construction, and Legislative Branch Subcommittees.

Congressman Ron Packard retired from public service on January 3, 2001 to spend more time with his wife Jean, his seven children, thirty-four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. His legacy in Congress is best characterized by hard work and honesty. Ron Packard has left an extremely positive and long-lasting impression on me, his colleagues in Congress and most importantly, his constituents. I am honored to sit in the seat that Ron Packard occupied before me.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I arrived late. I just wanted to pay my respects to Ron Packard and the action that we are taking today on his behalf.

I just wanted to say that Ron really had two great trademarks in the House: his great civility, his ability to get along with other Members, and to argue on the substance but never on a personal level and I think bring us together in many difficult times and also had great conservative values which very much reflected the values of his district and of San Diego County. I think that this naming of the post office is a fitting tribute to Ron and a fitting tribute to those values which have served us so well.

So my best to Ron Packard, and I want to thank the chairman for allowing me to come down and talk about him a little bit.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

(Mr. COX asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me the time.

I, too, rise in support of the legislation, H.R. 4794, just considered by the House of Representatives, to designate the Ron Packard post office in Oceanside. I am proud to join with the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), and others in the California delegation for this purpose, because it was my privilege to serve alongside Ron Packard, physically alongside him,

here in the Congress, geographically in southern California for 12 years; and it was my privilege in that process to come to know this extraordinary man.

When I first came to Congress, I served with Ron on the Committee on Public Works and Transportation where he was, as he now is, an expert on aviation, serving on that as well as other subcommittees in the Congress. He continued to have even greater influence in that area during his service on the Committee on Appropriations where he was a cardinal, a term of reverence, well-deserved in his case, for someone who wields the extraordinary power of the purse in our constitutional system.

It is interesting to think, as we completed debate during this Congress on campaign finance reform and all of our expressions of concern about the influences in the political system, about what this means in Ron's case. Ron Packard did not get here because of the help of special interests. He was not even a nominee of a major party. He had to run against the Democratic nominee. He had to run against the Republican nominee. He ran as an individual, as Ron Packard; and in an extraordinary fashion, his constituents wrote in his name in the general election, and he defeated the Republican and Democrat nominee, and that is how he came to Congress here. He was Ron Packard first and became his party's standard bearer only thereafter because the people voted him in.

He was the embodiment of a citizen politician. He was everything a Member of Congress should be and everything a national leader should be.

I am submitting a much more lengthy tribute for the RECORD, because I think it is quite possible to go on about Ron Packard without stopping; and I know we have other business to do here.

I very much appreciate the time that the gentleman from California yielded to me.

Now, it should be said about a Republican who serves on the Committee on Appropriations that there are temptations. The whole term limits movement has a reason in America because of those temptations, because people who serve too long in Washington find it too easy to spend other people's money on pork barrel projects, on wasteful Washington ways. Sometimes they forget about the people back home. It is sad to say that temptation is strongest when one is closest to the money on the committee charged with spending it, the Committee on Appropriations in the House and in the Senate.

So how honored are we as American citizens to have been served by a chairman on the Committee on Appropriations who took his trust so seriously that, in discharging it, he actually reduced spending.

When Ron Packard first became a chairman on the Committee on Appropriations in 1995, he quickly sent a bill to the floor of the House of Representatives that did not just cut spending for the benefit of taxpayers, it cut spending at home where, presumably, it would hurt Members of Congress themselves most, in our

own legislative budget. He cut spending by Congress on itself by fully one-third, an extraordinary achievement when we had a new majority, a new Congress.

In fact, throughout his career in the majority as a cardinal, as a chairman on the Committee on Appropriations, Ron garnered awards, not for bringing home the bacon, but from such groups as Americans for Tax Reform, which rated him a taxpayer's hero, and the National Taxpayers Union, which rated him—even as an appropriator and a cardinal—in the top 5 percent of people in this entire Congress interested in cutting spending.

This was an extraordinary accomplishment and something that all of his colleagues here are proud of. He made us all proud during his 18 years of service in this body. Everything that he has done in his career, even before he came to Congress, as a local leader, as a mayor, as a member of the city council, as a dentist with his own practice, has distinguished him.

It is well said that ours is a government of, by and for the people. The for and by parts are very important. But remember that it is also a government of the people, and that this Congress, which manufactures nothing, is simply the sum of the people who populate it the people who were chosen by the voters to come back here.

Therefore, by being who he has been, the fine gentleman that he has been and is, the leader that he has been, the exemplar that he has been for all of us, he has improved this institution, the people's House. The Congress of the United States and thus our country is the better for it.

It has been a privilege to know the gentleman, Mr. Packard, and the designation of this post office in Oceanside, CA, is a fitting tribute to his contributions to our democracy.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 4794, designating the Ronald C. Packard Post Office Building.

Ron has a long legacy of service to San Diego and has served the community in one capacity or another since 1962. From his election to Congress in 1982 until his retirement in 2000, Ron worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of San Diego. His leadership as the chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee provided for many of the improvements to San Diego's infrastructure. Ron was also a senior member of the Transportation Subcommittee and was crucial in securing funding for many of the highway improvements and transit projects in the county.

Aside from Ron's service and achievements, he is also a trusted friend. In my time in this body, I have turned to Ron many times as the senior member of the San Diego delegation for advice. Ron is one of the most sincere and genuine individuals I have ever met. His character is unquestionable and I think that we would all do well to conduct our lives with the same sense of purpose and moral wisdom as Ron.

I believe that this post office is a fitting tribute to Ron Packard's career in Congress and I am pleased to lend my support to this legislation.

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, thank you, Mr. ISSA, for introducing this bill, and for allowing me to speak in support of naming a post office after Congressman Ron Packard.

Ron Packard has been a fixture in California politics for as long as I can remember. When

most people think of the responsibilities of a Member of Congress, they think of our work here in Washington, shaping policy and passing legislation. But much of the job we do is focused on our own communities back home, serving as advocates for our hometowns and neighborhoods.

Over the two decades that he served in Congress, Ron Packard excelled in both these roles. In the House he rose to become an Appropriations subcommittee chairman, one of the so-called "Cardinals" who have a special responsibility for shaping our government's spending policy.

But he was always focused on finding ways to help out his constituents and neighbors back home. Congressman Packard started out in local politics, as director of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. Strengthening the economy of his community and his state was his overriding passion. Like many Californians, Ron Packard was a pioneer, moving to California to serve in the United States Navy. After his service he settled here, and helped to build our state, as a dentist and local businessman.

This blend of military and private sector experience made Congressman Packard uniquely qualified to deal with one of the great economic challenges that California has had to confront over the last decade—the decline in huge defense budgets that came with the end of the Cold War. The California economy has had to adjust to this new reality, and Congressman Packard was a leader in this effort, whether it was cleaning up or converting old military sites or supporting efforts to diversify the local economy.

Congressman Packard retired so that he could spend more time with his family. I understand that he now has thirty-four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, so I expect that spoiling all those youngsters will keep him quite busy.

This bill is a fitting tribute to Congressman Packard for the years of service he has provided to this House, his community and his country. Thank you again Mr. ISSA.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4794.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

JIM FONTENO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4717) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1199 Pasadena Boulevard in Pasadena, Texas, as the "Jim Fonteno Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4717

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JIM FONTENO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1199 Pasadena Boulevard in Pasadena, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Jim Fonteno Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Jim Fonteno Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4717, introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN), designates a post office located in Pasadena, Texas, as the Jim Fonteno Post Office Building. Members of the entire House delegation from the State of Texas are co-sponsors of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, during his 28-year tenure as Harris County commissioner, Commissioner Jim Fonteno has championed many projects to improve east Harris County. For instance, one of his first initiatives was to create senior citizen centers throughout east Harris County. Today these senior centers are available throughout Harris County, and it is a tribute to Commissioner Fonteno for his foresight in championing their establishment. These multiservice centers provide many services to senior citizens, including transportation services to and from the centers. In addition, Commissioner Fonteno has worked to improve local recreation facilities by upgrading equipment, purchasing land, and building new facilities.

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There are currently 35 parks in Commissioner Fonteno's precinct, covering 4,000 acres and providing 30 miles of hiking and biking trails. Commissioner Fonteno has also worked to improve the services available to youth by establishing the East Harris County Youth Program, which serves at-risk boys and girls with summer camps and after-school programs. Both of these programs help young people to succeed both academically and socially.

The renaming of the Pasadena post office building in honor of Commissioner Jim Fonteno is a well-deserved honor. He has tirelessly served the citizens of East Harris County through his many public and civic endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 4717.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Government Reform I rise in support of H.R. 4717, legislation naming a post office after Jim Fonteno. H.R. 4717, which was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) on May 14, 2002, has met the committee policy and enjoys the support and co-sponsorship of the entire Texas delegation.

Jim Fonteno is a county commissioner in East Harris County, Texas; and for over 28 years, Commissioner Fonteno has worked to deliver services to senior citizens and the young people of his community. He has improved local recreation facilities, established camps and after-school programs for at-risk youth and created senior centers for the elderly.

Commissioner Jim Fonteno is known throughout the county for his dedication to public service, and I am pleased to join with my colleagues in seeking to honor such a man.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee for yielding me the time today.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 4717, legislation that I am sponsoring along with the entire Texas delegation, to rename the post office at 1199 Pasadena Boulevard in Pasadena, Texas, in my congressional district as the Jim Fonteno Post Office Building. As has been mentioned, Jim Fonteno has served as a member of the Harris County Commissioner Court for Precinct 2 in East Harris County since 1974 and will be retiring at the end of this year.

First elected in 1974, Jim Fonteno has exhibited dedication and compassion for those he served in East Harris County. He is and has been a permanent fixture throughout the region. Beloved by his constituents, Commissioner Fonteno can be found mingling at one of the many centers he helped to develop, riding on a Precinct 2 bus to an Astros game with them or serving as an auctioneer for one or another group or another, notoriously wearing his Precinct 2 cap and corralling wandering politicians to ante up for the cause.